



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NASAO SAYS MUCH OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FAA/AIP REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

WASHINGTON, DC, March 28, 2007 - - Testifying before the House Aviation Subcommittee today, Travis Vallin, the Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics and the 2007 Chairman of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) addressed the association's views of the administration's proposed FAA/Airport Improvement Program (AIP) reauthorization bill.

Vallin started by saying that many individual states, including his home state of Colorado, and NASAO are actively involved in the efforts to transform the Air Traffic Control system for the future, but that the association believes that the administration's promotion of its bill is misleading. "This bill has little to do with the Next Generation system and much to do with shifting costs between and among aviation interests".

He cited the bill's promised "Hard-Floor" of \$300 million for State Apportionment as one of the aspects of the administration's proposal that the association's members were likely to favor, saying, "The safety, efficiency and success of our national system of airports is heavily dependent on a robust investment in State Apportionment". But, he also said that he thought the bill's \$2.7 billion AIP proposal was inadequate and that NASAO continues to champion \$3.8 billion.

"The administration is going in the right direction of Passenger Facility Charges for our nation's larger airports...it is just not going far enough", Vallin said, calling for a \$7.50 PFC.

Calling General Aviation airports a "vital and important component of the national system", he said that NASAO is seriously concerned about the administration's desire to place these airports into a new four-layered funding scheme. "In an effort to assure fair and appropriate funding for all General Aviation airports, NASAO is currently actively engaged in discussing this important issue with FAA Administrator's senior staff. But, unless or until we are able to modify this portion of the proposal, NASAO stands by our support of the existing Non-Primary Grant Program and strongly encourages Congress to continue the existing program."

Vallin said that much of the administration's proposal, "is not in the public interest" including protecting proposed user fees and tax-hikes from judicial review. "Throwing away 30 years of wise, tested and successful public policy for a radically different user fee based system that would actually collect less revenue that we enjoy today and which would likely cause great damage to the General Aviation Community is not in the public interest. NASAO is adamantly opposed to any new user fees for General Aviation".

He also said that NASAO is "irrevocably opposed to the administration's attempt to impose a new board of directors on the FAA...FAA already has a board of directors and it is called the United States Congress".

NASAO represents the state government agencies and employees who serve the public interest in all facets of aviation in all 50 states, Guam and Puerto Rico.

[Mr. Vallin's Testimony](#) and NASAO's [2007 National Legislative Agenda](#) are available at NASAO's web-site [www.NASAO.org](http://www.NASAO.org).

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